

FCC MAIL ROOM <sup>SEPT 21, 1998</sup>

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IN THE MATTER OF 1998 BIENNIAL REGULATORY REVIEW  
AMENDMENT OF PART 97 OF THE COMMISSIONS AMATEUR SERVICE  
RULES, FCC WT DOCKET 98-143"

I AM IN ACCORD WITH FCC PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE NUMBER  
OF LICENSE CLASSES FROM SIX TO FOUR. I WOULD ALSO PROPOSE  
THAT THERE ONLY BE THREE CLASSES. FIRST CLASS (EXTRA),  
SECOND CLASS (GENERAL), AND THIRD CLASS (NO CODE TECH).  
WITH FIRST CLASS AND SECOND CLASS REQUIRING 5 WPM CODE,  
WITH NO CODE FOR THIRD CLASS.

I AM A GENERAL AND USE CODE ACTIVELY, I DONT BELIEVE  
THAT ANY CODE REQUIREMENT IS NECESSARY. I FIRMLY  
BELEAVE THAT IF SOME ONE WANTS TO USE CODE ON THE AIR,  
WILL BE MOTIVATED TO LEARN IT.

I KNOW THAT 50% OF ADVANCED, AND EXTRA CLASSES DONT  
USE CODE ON THE AIR. THEY LEARN IT ONLY TO GET THE  
TICKET, AND NEVER USE IT AGAIN.

IM ALSO A V.E., AND IVE FOUND A SLIGHT TURN OFF OF  
HAMS ABOUT THE ADVANCED TEST. ITS TOO LONG, MANY DONT  
GET THRU IT, BECAUSE 50 QUESTIONS IS TO LONG, WHEN  
EXTRA AND GENERAL IS ONLY 25 QUESTIONS. ID LIKE TO SEE IT  
THE SAME NUMBER OF QUESTONS FOR ADVANCED, AND EXTRA.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE CREDIT GIVEN TO GENERAL CLASS HAMS  
THAT USE THE BANDS 10Y AFTER DAY, AND GET SOME KIND OF CREDIT  
FOR THAT IN UP GRADING. SOME GENERAL CLASS HAMS SPEND  
10 TO 20 YEARS ON THE BANDS EVERY DAY AND JUST CANT  
MAKE IT ANY HIGHER

I KNOW THE MAJORITY OF HAMS ARE NO-CODE, IT WOULD  
BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO MAKE IT EASIER TO UP GRADE,  
TO BALANCE UP THE USE OF THE FREQUENCYS. THATS ALSO  
WHERE MOST SCHOOL AGE KIDS ARE, AND WHERE HAM  
RADIOS FUTURE IS!

TOO MANY OLDER, UPPER CLASS HAMS DONT WANT THEM  
IN THE HF BANDS COMPEATING WITH THEM, AND THAT  
IS THE WRONG ATITUDE.

I BELEAVE THAT WHEN THE WORLD RADIO COUNCIL  
APPROVES THE NO-CODE REQUIREMENTS, WE SHOULD  
WITH THE CODE REQUIREMENT. IT WILL NOT REDUCE THE  
NUMBER OF HAMS USING IT ON THE AIR. I THINK IT WILL

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INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HAMS USING CODE IN THE LONG RUN!

ON ENFORCEMENT, SOMETHING THAT MIGHT WORK WELL WOULD BE AN A.R.R.L. SYSTEM (VOLUNTEER) SIMILAR TO THE V.E. SYSTEM. TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE ARRL. A GROUP OF VOLUNTEER TO MONITOR THE HAM FREQUENCIES FOR INFRACTIONS OF THE RULES TO THE ARRL, WHO WOULD CONTACT THE F.C.C. FOR ACTION IF NECESSARY.

THE V.E. SYSTEM IS VERY GOOD. I THINK THE WRITTEN TEST QUESTIONS COULD BE MORE ON OPERATING, LESS ON THEORY, THAT IS ONLY USED TO DESIGN RADIO EQUIPMENT. NOT ONLY HOW TO OPERATE BUT HOW TO TALK WITH HAMS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. WE ARE MAKING FRIENDS ALL OVER THE WORLD, SORT OF LIKE AMBASADORS OF THE U.S. SOME PEOPLE FORGET THAT SOME TIMES.

ANOTHER BENEFIT TO RELAXING THE REQUIREMENTS TO UP GRADE. IS EMERGENCY SERVICES, UP GRADING SURVIVELY INCREASES INTEREST IN ARES, RACES ECT, ALSO CLUB ACTIVITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.

YOURS TRULY  
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